

CONFIDENTIAL

28 May 1979

(201-275949)

20P

LAWST

Memo for the Record

TO : Mr. William Sturbits

FROM: Wade E. Thomas

SUBJECT: Reinol GONZALEZ Gonzales - Comments on Interviewin May 1979 in Miami.

CIT: RULAP

1. This Subject was interviewed on the occasion of both our visits to Miami and we spent at least some 6 hours with him and still haven't finished. He told us on the occasion of the last visit that he still wants to tell us about some things going on in the Cuban exile community in Miami, that some Cubans are buying arms and planning actions against CASTRO, etc. He wants to tell us, he said, that we'll know and won't be surprised but he denies all part for himself in any such illegal actions. He does not believe it possible, given internal and external conditions now prevailing, to overthrow CASTRO anytime soon but says if it were possible, he would be the first to start preparations for that purpose. When we next go to Miami we will listen to what additional he has to say.

2. Subject was for the writer the most interesting and perhaps the most productive of the people we were assigned to interview. This guy is cut from a different mold from the other 7. He is tough, intelligent, cunning, shrewd, lacking in formal education, but a real tough-in-fighter who knows what he wants and knows how to go about it. He is, too, I think, a real opportunist, and this may explain in part his reason for putting on the 6 Nov 61 TV program. I had the feeling repeatedly that he was not really coming clean on many of our questions, but the only two questions to which he reacted noticeably were the ones about the TV program GOC. Files and Octavio BARROSO. These two visibly upset him even tho I feel indicate he knew or thought they would be thrown at him and he had his Reinol knew answers prepared. More about the TV program and BARROSO later. BARROSO.

3. This man started out as the Secretary-general of the Union of Christian Workers (UTC), at one point belonged to the ARD( an association of young democratic people), the MRP for a while, etc. In 1959 he was named foreign relations secretary of the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC), however, at the election of officers in late 1959 CASTRO showed up and imposed his slate, a Communist slate for the most part on the congress. Subject was required to turn over

APR 29 1980  
DOC. MICRO. SER.  
RECORDED FILMED750022 COPY  
1992-38159CONFIDENTIAL  
X9A2-38159201-275949  
28 May 1979  
049-124-033 03

**CONFIDENTIAL**

-20

odono

his post as foreign relations secretary to Orion ALVAREZ! He and ALVAREZ had been on opposite ends politically in previous years, when ALVAREZ was working at the Chase Manhattan Bank in Havana and representing the bank workers union, but they had put aside their differences to work together against BATISTA. Then, when CASTRO came along he propelled ALVAREZ to the post in the CTC to which Subject had democratically been chosen. The imposition of CASTRO's slate took place at a CTC congress in Nov 1960. He claims that he has never seen ALVAREZ since the business of turning over his files to ALVAREZ was done in 1960. He knows of course that ALVAREZ went on to other jobs, eventually to the Cuban Embassy in Madrid, and eventually defected to the US. He claims to have no use for ALVAREZ, he's a dedicated Commie and he wouldn't trust him.

SCT 11-1246

AMC after trial in jail

4. Dr. Elena Mederos - is the aunt of PUJAL Mederos. She is currently working with the Human Rights Commission in Washington, DC. Subject says that some 30 years ago when he knew her pretty well she was democratic or leftist in her politics but very leftist in her economics. He described her as a revolutionary of a sort, with lots of prestige in Cuba in those days.

JUL 12 1962 1003550

5. So far as he's aware there was only one Octavio BARROSO so the one you're talking about is the same one known to him, the same one shot in late 1961 or early 1962, he's not certain exactly when. He claims that PUJAL and BARROSO were captured at the same time or at about the same time and that it might have been PUJAL who reported to G-2 on PUJAL but in any case he (Subject) didn't do it. There were others in jail at that time, also, he says, who could have told G-2 about BARROSO's revolutionary activities. As stated, that question, as did the one on the TV program, visibly upset him so I'm not at all sure that we got the truth.

6. Subject was arrested on 11 October 1961 in a raid on the Cesar Odio Farm, along with a number of other people. On 30 September 1961 a woman belonging to his unit, Dalia JORGE, was arrested, allegedly placing a bomb in a company there in Havana called CIA. Subject was carrying documentation in alias but almost immediately he was confronted with Dalia who identified him to G-2. But, the most important evidence is the fact that over the next few days and weeks those known to Dalia in that organization were arrested; those not known to her were not. Although allegedly arrested planting a bomb, she was almost immediately released and was soon walking the street. A few months later Dalia had married a lieutenant in G-2. She later divorced the lieutenant (whose name Subject could not come up with) and then married Carlos RUBIERA, a nephew of Vicente RUBIERA who lives in Miami, Florida and works for the AFL/CIO.

JUL-110926

7. The TV program - why? It was the first such appearance by anyone arrested that could be called in favor of CASTRO.

The MRP had a pact amongst themselves, he claims, which stated

① This is Fausto Odon ALVAREZ de la Campa y Sotolongo who defected to U. in Madrid in 1964.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## CONFIDENTIAL

that anyone captured would not talk for 72 hours, to give those still free time to change hiding places, etc, then one would be permitted, if forced to, to tell minor things, things it was thought the G-2 might already know.

He was taken to a place referred to as POINT X and stripped naked. He was interrogated almost continuously, lights were kept on and all sorts of threats were made against him. He could hear in the building the voices of others known to him in the MRP, among others Fernando Rojas, Fernandez Rivera, (now in Caracas), Roberto Jimenez. His interrogators were Isidoro MALMIERCA, now ~~Minister of Foreign Relations~~, but then just a secretary to the Minister of Interior. MALMIERCA was assisted at times by Lt. ALFONSO (fnu), apparently an assistant to MALMIERCA, who was much more intelligent and much better trained than MALMIERCA. The latter did a poor job and got little out of Subject but ALFONSO did a much better job.

After several days he was told that CASTRO himself would visit him and personally conduct the interrogation. He claims that he told MALMIERCA that that would do no good for it was CASTRO himself he helped to teach Subject many years before how to fight the Commies and prevent their penetration into the labor movement. As a result, he says, CASTRO did not come but Ramiro VALDEZ did.

VALDEZ told him that the decision had already been made not to shoot him (Subject) but that some or most of the military section people of his organization (MRP) in jail would have to pay with their lives for what they, Subject and others of the MRP had done. The only way he could save them, VALDEZ said, would be to go on TV and tell the nation what his organization had been doing, tell them how useless resistance to CASTRO was, and at the same time condemn the US for its complicity in anti-CASTRO efforts.

Now, Subject claims that some of this fitted after a fashion into his own thinking and size up of the state of things. He claims that 1) he had decided some time earlier that internal resistance of the sort the MRP was conducting was useless, and 2) that it would be better to leave the country and fight from abroad, and 3) that he had proposed just such a move at a large meeting of MRP leaders held just a few days before his capture. However, the student and workers' representatives at that meeting did not support such a move so no action was taken, then came his own arrest.

An attempt was to have been made on CASTRO's life, using a bazooka from a room overlooking a public plaza where CASTRO was to appear on 4 October 1961, and VALDEZ had found out about these plans, through Dalia, Subject assumes. Anyway, Subject claims that three people were to have gone up to the room, which had been properly prepared and an escape route worked out, just prior to the ceremony. Of the three, one guy, Antonio VALADEZ Vaciana got cold feet and took off for the States instead. Raul VENTA (Del) Mazo was there but did not fire the weapon, for some reason not known to Subject, and the third man, whose name he could not remember, apparently did not go up to the room either.

-4-

## CONFIDENTIAL

Well, believing that such resistance activities were in fact futile and believing that CASTRO would in fact shoot his men, and believing that he could all alone determine what was to be said on TV, he decided that to accept the offer was the correct thing to do. He could not have the blood of others on his hand, he said, unless something very worthwhile was being accomplished. He professed to VALDEZ, however, that he had no authority all by himself to make that decision and asked to discuss it with three or four MRP leaders there in jail with him. VALDEZ agreed that he could discuss it with Fernando ROJAS but with no one else, and that was done. ROJAS reluctantly approved.

He wrote the presentation he was to give on TV and he said no substantive changes were made by the Cubans. He constructed it, he said, to 1) tell them as much as possible what they wanted to hear without doing any real harm, 2) protect those still at large, and 3) give away as little sensitive information as possible. He said he realized fully what he was doing, that he would do it again if caught in the same situation, and that he takes full responsibility now as then for what he did and said and still feels it was the only logical think he could do. Again, this was not a subject he enjoyed discussing; he appeared in fact a bit embarrassed by it all, but he knew it would be coming at some point.

8. Why didn't the Cubans release him after the ransom was paid them? Because he would not sign a paper in effect saying he was sorry and asking CASTRO's forgiveness. He meet with Alonso PUJOL and three G-2 military officers to discuss the release and the conditions of the release one day after the ransom had been paid, and when he refused the G-2's conditions PUJOL took a piece of paper out and scribbled on it an agreement, which said Subject would obligate himself not to become involved again in anti-CASTRO activities if released, and he agreed to sign that. In fact, he did sign it. PUJOL then handed it to the military offices but they said the Cuban Govt could not accept it. It was after that that the money was returned.

9. How did he get out when he did? Through the efforts of Gabriel GARCIA Marquez, a Mexican novelist and reporter in Mexico City and a good friend of CASTRO and other high Cuban leaders and of Subject and his wife. Subect's wife and GARCIA's wife are particularly close, as are GARCIA's wife and Subject's children.

10. Subject's wife had contacted many people, prominent people in an effort to bring about Subject's release but had had no luck until the GARCIA's went to work on it. In early November (he thinks) of 1977 GARCIA and wife visited Cuba and spent sometime with CASTRO. GARCIA's wife allegedly told CASTRO that she had one important favor to ask of him, to release a good friend of theirs who had been held for many years. CASTRO promised to do it immediately. However, by 11 Dec 77 Subject was still not out and GARCIA, on his way Spain to receive some sort of literary premio stopped off briefly in Havana to see what he could find out. He talked first

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

✓  
Carlos Rafael RODRIGUEZ, WHO RELAYED the word to CASTRO and the latter went to see GARCIA at his hotel room. He told GAPCIA that he was sorry that he had not been able to release Subject when promised but that there were many in the top echelon of govt that were opposed to his release and that it took him some time to bring them around. However, he called or spoke to ABRANTES, who was with him at that time, and told him to find Subject and have him brought to G-2 offices the next morning at 1000 hours. That was done and in fact a u-2 colonel drove Subject to the airport, obtained his passport, etc, and he set off at 1700 hours on 12 December in the same plane with GARCIA. The G-2 colonel who drove him to the airport was Colonel Manuel BLANCO, who was generally referred to a Mallo. Several of our other subjects had contact with this guy and most found him reasonable, intelligent and very military.

11. GONZALES, who spoke only in Spanish, although understands some English and undoubtedly speaks some, is a member of the committee which helped to negotiate the release of political prisoners with CASTRO, and he will continue to do all in his power, he says, to accomplish that objective. He has been to Jamaica once to negotiate with Cuban authorities, and once to Havana. My team member will cover those activities in his report.

12. Subject is working for himself and has been for sometime; he is in the used clothes business, and expects to rent a place for his business on 8th Street, SW, in the 5600 block, I believe, at an early date. He expects to cater pretty much to Latin Americans traveling to the US, hopefully mostly Venezuelans and Brazilians for they are the ones with the most spending money. He's already sold to many of them, has a good many friends and contacts in Venezuela, and believes that he'll get a lot of business from Latin America. He has a friend who is prepared to make a \$10,000 loan, and a bank has agreed to finance him to the tune of \$20,000 and it'll take about \$30,000 to stock his business adequately. He can and will get short term credit from some of his suppliers but will probably be limited to 60 to 90 days. He's very optimistic about the future, appears in good health, although somewhat overweight, and his wife works. She works in the office for a Puerto Rican packing company.

13. Subject was most appreciative for the offer of a physical examination, and he knows that he has no money on escrow with the Agency. Nevertheless, he probably is expecting some financial compensation for his time in prison, although this was never mentioned specifically. Tidbits of info provided by him on people on the long list, as well as on others and other subjects will be or has been included in other reports.

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Written by Carl Jenkins on basis of interviews done:

Debriefing Report: 17 & 24 May 1979

Subject: Reinal GONZALEZ Gonzalez (Var Name: "Antonio")  
DPOB: 24 Apr 32, Mancuito, Matanzas, Cuba

Biographical Data, Historical Information:

Address (25 May 79): 7642 S.W. 96th Court, Miami,  
Florida 33173 (Tel: 305/596-4097)

Parents: Basilio GONZALEZ Perez and  
Prudencia GONZALEZ Pena (Both deceased when  
Subject was an infant. He was reared as an  
orphan, primarily by the Catholic Church.)

Siblings: None

✓ Wife: Teresita ALVAREZ Fernandez, 20 Aug 34, Saqua La  
Grande, Las Villas, Cuba

Children: Twins: Reinal A. GONZALEZ Alvarez, and  
Cecilia Maria GONZALEZ Alvarez (born  
20 Oct 61, Miami, Florida. Both  
completing 12th grade 1979.)

Contact information on wife, Teresita: Secretary for  
Savoy Packing Co. Sales Office, 444 Brickell Avenue,  
Miami, Florida. (Tel: 305/374-7070)

In 1959, Subject was a labor union leader in the bank  
workers' section of the Union of Christian Workers (UTC). In  
November 1959, Communists took control of the Cuban Labor  
Confederation (CTC). Subject opposed that move and was one of  
the founders of the Accion Democratica Revolucionaria (ADR),  
a Catholic anti-Castro group, along with Antonio FERNANDEZ  
Nuevo, Dr. Andres VALDESPINO, Rev. Antonio BASTARRICA, and  
Dr. Amilio FIALLO. Subject first made contact with the Agency  
in 1959 through Rev. Enrique OSLE, who introduced Subject to  
Professor James O'MAILIA ("Pepe") of Villanueva University,  
an Agency representative. "Pepe" offered economic help and  
arms for the anti-Castro labor movement. The ADR began anti-

**CONFIDENTIAL**

201-27J-549

CONFIDENTIAL

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Reinol

Page 2

Castro activities by Jan/Feb 60. Subject dealt with "Pepe" on behalf of the ADR. The ADR was absorbed into the MRP when it was organized in October 1960. The MRP leaders were all former GOC officials who had broken with Castro. Subject was Coordinator of Labor Activities for the MRP.

In September 1960, Subject decided to go to Miami to confer with <sup>201-607437</sup> Manuel ARTURO Buesa, the external representative of the MRR. He told "Pepe", who arranged a visa for Subject in four hours. In Miami, Subject met at the PanAmerican Hotel with "Mr. Jim Smith" (actually Jim Brown, a Miami Case Officer) in a private meeting. Subject told "Smith" money was not needed in Cuba; they needed arms and materials. Subject told nobody he was going to Miami. He went first to Puerto Rico to a labor meeting for cover, then to Miami. Back in Cuba, Subject arranged three supply drops through "Pepe" in Dec 60/Jan 61. Two fell into Security hands, and one went to a MRP group in the Escambray. "Pepe" lived in Miramar and stayed in Cuba until about Dec 61. Subject was in touch with him until Subject's arrest in Oct 61. Subject also knew <sup>A</sup> Jose PUJOL Mederos (possibly PUJALS) as an agent trained by the Agency in the U.S., who worked with the MRP and the small UR group.

In late 1960, an internal fight broke out in the MRP. The MRP had been sending US\$30,000 per month from pesos collected and changed in Cuba on the black market to Miami to pay for arms. The MRP people in Miami kept the money and the Agency supplied the arms. Subject had put <sup>201-34298 10/14/61</sup> Manuel RAY, MRP leader, on a boat at Varadero to Miami. Subject was then handling <sup>201-34298 10/14/61</sup> infil/exfil and supply drops. Ray left Rogelio CISNEROS as internal MRP coordinator. Ray failed to straighten out the

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Reinol

Page 3

ness in Miami and the internal MRP expelled him, recognizing as their representatives Ignacio MENDOZA in Miami, and Antonio FERNANDEZ Nuevo, Jose PRINZE, and Gustavo GODOY. Subject tried to stay out of internal fights and continued working directly with "Pepe". In March 1961, Cisneros went to Miami in an effort to get more arms for the MRP, and never came back. Subject was named internal coordinator until his arrest in October 1961.

In late 1960, there was a series of meetings designed to unify the opposition to Castro. Subject met at one time or another with the following people:

Alberto CRUZ of the Rescate Organization (died of cancer)

David SALVADOR of the 30 Nov Movement

Octavio BARROSO Gomez, the only credible leader of the small UR group. He was shot after being arrested and tortured.

Juan FALCON of the MRR

Alberto MULLER of the DRE

Subject proposed to dissolve all existing organizations and form one new one to lead the fight. No agreement was ever reached, not even for unified military action or unified political action. The MRR/DRE had the most numbers and refused to cooperate, saying they had all they needed and could do the job themselves. Their spokesman from Miami was a DRE member, Julio HERNANDEZ Rojo.

After the invasion, Pujol sent Alfredo IZAGUIRRE, who had worked for him, to the U.S. In the U.S., Alfredo did not represent Pujol, but claimed himself to be chief of the MRP/UR

**CONFIDENTIAL**

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Reinaldo

Page 4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

group. On his return to Cuba, Alfredo claimed to be appointed by Washington as overall resistance chief for all of Cuba.

Subject and Pujol refused to cooperate with him.

Arrest, Investigation:

On 30 Sep 61, an MRP member named Dalia JORGE was arrested putting a bomb in the Habana Sears store. Ten days later, on 12 Oct 61, Subject was arrested. Subject believes she may have been a G-2 penetration, or she may just have been recruited by them. Everybody she knew was arrested, the ones she didn't know were not. At a G-2 confrontation, she identified Subject by true name and personal data, along with other MRP members. After a trial, she was freed and married a G-2 officer, name

unknown. They were later divorced and she married Carlos RUBIERA, nephew of Vicente RUBIERA, a former leader of the Cuban Telephone Workers' Union, now in Miami as AFL/CIO representative. Other MRP members arrested were Fernando ROJAS, Hector Rene LOPEZ (now in Miami), Raul PERUANDEZ Rivero (now in Caracas), and Roberto JIMENEZ.

Then G-2 officer (now Foreign Minister) Isidoro MALMIURCA, assisted by a Lieutenant "Alfonso", who did most of the questioning, interrogated Subject and the MRP group. They were the only ones to work on Subject, but used many sessions and long hours. They said Fidel Castro wanted to talk to Subject. Fidel never came, but Ramiro Valdez did. Subject agreed to make a TV interview (7 Nov 61) in return for the lives of the people in his group.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Reinol

Page 5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Prison, Intelligence, Information:

In late 1969, a committee of prisoners at Guanajay, composed of Subject, Alberto Muller, Lino Fernandez, Antonio Copado, Miguel Garcia Armengol, met with a representative of the Ministry of the Interior, Lieutenant Mariano Rodriguez and the Guanajay Director, Lieutenant Cosne. The purpose was to work out a work-rehabilitation plan without political indoctrination. They had three formal and several informal meetings while visiting proposed work sites for schools, pig farms, etc. The Progressive Plan from the Ministry of the Interior came in February 1970 as a result of these discussions. The plan was essentially that proposed by the prisoners, but the GOC added a proviso to "attend discussions of political matters." About 100 prisoners agreed, others refused. The Ministry people explained it would consist only of listening to GOC officials reading Marxist pamphlets. The prisoners still refused. The Ministry finally struck that point and published the plan, without reference to political matters. The work-rehabilitation program then began about late 1970 or early 1971.

In 1970, a Soviet General, advisor to the Ministry of the Interior, made an inspection of Guanajay, with 8 or 10 other Soviets. Their escort was a 1st Lt, now a Major (name unknown), from the Ministry. The prisoners made a big racket in the messhall, banging plates, etc.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Subject has no knowledge of Cubans in Vietnam.

*ER 30-76-322*  
Subject's cousin, Rene DIAZ Gonzales, served in Angola for 12 months in 1975-76 as a Platoon Corporal in the motorized infantry. He was wounded in the right leg in an ambush by a mine. His unit was isolated in the operations area and survived on a supply of condensed milk they had with them. Diaz normally works as an electrician in a bus factory at Jiron in Havana. Subject also met Lazaro HERNANDEZ, a Cuban negro soldier, who was ordered to put on a local uniform and try to pass as an

Angolan to mix with the locals and gather information. Hernandez refused, was arrested, sent back to Santa Amelia army camp near Habana for trial and sentencing.

Ransom and Release

In ~~Aug~~ prior to <sup>1978</sup>, before the ransom money for Subject was paid, Guillermo ALONSO Pujol and 2 Cuban military officers talked to Subject at G2 HQs about a ransom deal Alonso was handling. They wanted him to agree to a political indoctrination rehabilitation program, which Subject rejected. Alonso proposed that Subject sign a letter renouncing any further political activities, but the GOC representatives rejected that deal. Subject went back to Guanajay prison.

About Aug. 70, after the ransom money was paid, 3 or 4 GOC officers came to Subject bringing unacceptable conditions for his release. He refused to (1) sign a document apologizing for his past actions; (2) sign a document that, at the time he

**CONFIDENTIAL**

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Reihol

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Page 7

was captured and interrogated, Subject had tried to mislead and give false information; (3) Subject would agree to work as an agent for the GOC wherever they needed him. Subject refused. Fidel Castro sent back the ransom money, and Subject again went back to Guanajay.

Subject was told on 11Dec77 that he would be released the next day. This was a result of a campaign by his wife, Teresita, through an old family friend, Gabriel GARCIA Marquez, and his wife. Garcia is a Mexican pro-Marxist novelist and journalist with high-level influence in Cuba. His wife, Mercedes, is a close friend of Teresita and the twins. From late 1976, Teresita stayed in contact with the Garcias on behalf of Subject. In the Fall of 1977, Gabriel and Mercedes went to Cuba to ask Fidel Castro to release Subject. On the way from the airport in his car, Mercedes told Fidel she had one difficult request for him, which was to release Subject. Fidel said that was no problem, that he would do it. The Garcias waited a few days, but nothing happened, and they went back to Mexico.

About 6 weeks later, in early Dec77, Gabriel Garcia went through Habana to Spain to receive a journalism award. He called Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and said he was irritated with Fidel because he had broken his word and not released Subject. Later that day, Fidel went to Gabriel's hotel room and Gabriel told him the same thing. Fidel appeared not to be aware that

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Reinol

Page 8

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Subject was not already released, and called Jose ABRANTES over and told him, "Find Subject and bring him here." Within 6 hours, Subject was out of jail, had a passport and exit visa, and was ready to leave.

Subject was on pass, visiting relatives in Habana that day, 11Dec77. A "G2 officer" phoned Subject and told him not to leave the house until further notice. Subject was afraid because he was just then in the middle of an escape plan, with Enrique CEPEROS and the son of Jose(DP) RIOS, who had been studying in Cuba. Subject had sent a note to his wife for "Pepe" (O'Mailia), now retired and living in Miami, to arrange for a boat to pick them up at a beach Subject had designated. Young Del Rios had been arrested 3 days before and Subject was afraid he had talked about the exfiltration plan.

Subject stayed at the house until a G2 officer came, showed his ID card, and told Subject to be at a specific spot on the street about 10 blocks away at exactly 10:00 the following morning, that an official of the Ministry of Interior wanted to see him. As Subject walked toward the spot the next morning, about 3 or 4 blocks away a white auto came by, stopped, and 3 or 4 men grabbed Subject and put him in the car, which went at high speed to G2 Hqs. On the way, the driver told Subject that Fidel Castro had ordered his release as a result of Gabriel's intervention. At Hqs, the "driver" turned out

**CONFIDENTIAL**

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Rennel

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Page 9

to be "Colonel Manyo" (Manuel BLANCO Fernandez), Security Director for Prisons, and a man with whom Subject had conspired against Batista years before. Manyo took Subject to the plane about 3 or 4 hours later and put him on the flight with Gabriel. Also on board was Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who was in First Class, but came back and asked Subject about Fernando ~~DE~~ ROJAS Pinochet, a friend of Subject from Accion Catolica and the MRP.

Prisoner Release Negotiations

12Dec77, on the plane from Havana to Madrid, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez told Subject he had a generally favorable attitude toward the release of political prisoners; he thought the GOC was ready to discuss it and maybe something could be worked out. Subject talked to Gabriel about the prospects on the plane and later in Spain. When Subject got to the U.S., he wrote letters about prisoner release to friends in Venezuela in COPEI. This went on through May, June, and into July 1978. Through Gabriel Garcia in Mexico, Subject sent a message to Sergio Del Valle, Minister of the Interior, saying Subject wanted to talk to somebody outside Cuba about prisoner release. The answer was that the GOC was ready, and Subject could come to Cuba in July 1978. Subject refused to go back to Cuba at that time, and suggested Kingston. The GOC accepted.

Prior to this time, a "Mr. Fisher" from the Agency had come to Miami to talk with Subject, who now sent a letter to "Sr. Pescador" via the P.O. Box of Catherine Hardy in Washington. Subject tried to indicate what he was up to and hoped to get somebody down to Miami to talk with, so Subject could

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Reinol

Page 10

explain what was happening. He got no response.

Subject and his wife, Teresita, went to Jamaica in Jul78,  
where they met Col. Manyo, with Justo BETANCOURT Ge, described  
by Subject as a dangerous Cuban Intelligence agent and former  
Consul in Spain. They told Subject to check in at the Sheraton  
and wait. In about a half-hour, they called Subject and wife  
to the restaurant. Cuban Embassy wives took Teresita on a  
tour, while Subject settled in with Manyo, Betancourt, and  
Ramon DE LA CRUZ, Vice-Consul, in a suite where they talked  
until 03:00 the next morning (Saturday night and Sunday morning.)

Subject had a list of 12 people to discuss for initial  
release:

*ZKJ/av, gonzal*  
Paula GRAU - (The GOC representatives said OK, provided  
her son, "Monchy" Grau, who owns the A-C  
Stationery Store in Miami, would deal directly  
with them. He did, and they released her  
*duo K soon thereafter.*)

Fernando (DE) ROJAS

Enrique CEPERO

~~H~~ Antonio COPADO

~~H~~ Raul FERNANDEZ Rivero

~~H~~ Luis GARCIA Menocal

~~H~~ Arturo MARTINEZ Pagarday

~~H~~ Santiago ECHAVARRIA Orsini, M.D.

~~H~~ Nelson CASTELLANOS Menendez

~~H~~ Julio HERNANDEZ Rojo

and 3 other names not remembered at time of interview.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**CONFIDENTIAL**

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Reinol

Page 11

The GOC representatives made the following points:

- (1) They didn't want some of the names included, but did want some others to be added.
- (2) They wanted more prisoners included, not so few.
- (3) They wanted a campaign to convince the U.S. to improve relations.
- (4) They wanted the U.S. blockade dropped.
- (5) They wanted to stop violent action against Cuba by refugees.
- (6) They wanted pressure groups of refugees going to Washington to influence the USG along the lines above.

Subject said he had no control over any of those things, that he had gone on a personal, humanitarian mission but the GOC wanted to raise the talks to a higher, more political level, and apparently wanted them in Habana. The GOC representatives asked Subject to suggest some names for a prisoner release commission. Subject said he could, but they would be people of his own convictions, i.e. with humanitarian, not political, interests. Subject put forth the names of

~~HX~~ Bishop Eduardo Boza Masvidal, of Miami

~~JULY 11-1985~~  
Rev. Enrique OSLE, a Puerto Rican Jesuit, now in Miami

~~HX~~ Rev. Guillermo ARIAS, a Cuban Jesuit, now in Miami, who teaches at Belen High School.

~~JULY 11-1985~~  
Eduardo GARCIA Moure, a Cuban exile in Venezuela who is Asst-Sec'y of the Confederation of Latin-American Workers.

~~HX~~ Fernando MENA, a former prisoner released in 1970 when his term was complete, and now living in Miami.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Reinol

Page 12

Jesus (?) CARBONELL, Cuban Consul at Kingston and a DGI officer, sent a Telex to Habana about midnight and got back an approval message in a couple of hours. The GOC representatives invited Subject and wife to a Sunday afternoon dinner party on the rooftop of the Pegaso Hotel, next to the Sheraton. The entire Cuban delegation, about 15 officials, was there, but only 3 or 4 wives. There was an orchestra with violins. Col. Manyo had gone to the market to buy spray deodorant for himself and gifts for the children of Subject and his wife. On Monday, Subject and his wife returned to Miami.

Several weeks later, Subject received a message, through a phone call from Gabriel Garcia and another call from Carbonell in Kingston, that the first prisoners would come out in September 1978 (they actually came in October), and that some of the people on his list, particularly De Rojas and Echemendia, would be included. Subject was invited to go to Habana and come back with the released prisoners. He got the names of others invited to go the first trip from Bernardo BENES, a banker in Miami. The GOC had sent the names to him. A meeting of the group was called at the home of Orlando PADRON in Miami.

The only problem was that the GOC had included the name of Rev. Manuel ESPINOZA, from Hialeah. Subject believes Espinoza is a GOC agent who has political commitments in Cuba and speaks highly of Fidel Castro. Subject told Benes that, if Espinoza went, Subject would not. Subject said he would work on a humanitarian operation, not on a political one.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Reinol

Page 13

Benes had already accepted Espinoza. Subject still refused. Benes called Carbonell in Jamaica, who tried to talk Subject into going. Subject was adamant. Carbonell said he would check with Rabana. About 2 hours later, Carbonell called Benes at Padron's house and said they could drop Espinoza, but to be sure and send Subject. (To Subject, this is more evidence that Espinoza is a controlled agent and the GOC can afford to sacrifice him if necessary.)

Betancourt met the Oct 78 flight, along with other GOC officials, and the group was treated as though they were diplomats. The next day, a message came to the guest house that Fidel Castro wanted to see them. He came and met with the group alone. There was nobody else from the GOC and no apparent taping or other records kept. They talked about 2 hours on prisoner release. Then reporters came in, including George Volsky of REPLICA and the NEW YORK TIMES, Helga Silva and Bonnie Anderson of the MIAMI HERALD. (Anderson's father had been shot in Cuba by Castro and she wanted to visit his tomb. On the third trip, she was allowed to do so.)

In the 2 hour meeting, Fidel and the 5 people on the committee agreed on ground rules. In an exchange with Fidel, Subject made the point that, in this situation, everybody at the table would be winners if it worked, but all would be losers if it failed. Fidel would gain in international stature, while the committee would gain the prisoners' release and make a start toward reunification of the Cuban family. The others in his group were a little shocked and

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Reinol

Page 14

afraid at Subject's frank statement, but Fidel agreed with him.

When Fidel came in, Benes took him around making introductions. When they came to Subject, Fidel said, "Yes, we are old friends." At a coffee break, Msgr. Bosquet was the only one to hear the following exchange. Fidel told Subject that he would have been released much sooner except that many people in the GOC opposed it because Subject had burned the El Encanto Department Store on 16 April 1961. Fidel said Subject had done it as a preliminary to the invasion that he knew was coming the next day. Subject replied that he had not done it, and had known nothing about the invasion any more than was known on the street at the time.

The most substantive matters were about prisoner release, the Cuban community in Miami, and about anti-Castro terrorist activities. Fidel said that if there were no further such acts, it would be a sign that the USG had taken proper control measures, but if terrorism breaks out again, it would mean the USG had allowed it to happen.

Current Personal Situation

Subject went from Habana to Spain in Dec77, and to Miami in Jan78. For about 3 months, he worked as an accountant in a clothing factory, then he switched to the VIASA airline until Oct78. He quit to form his own small company, and because the job with VIASA left too little time free to work on prisoner exchange. Subject has tried to put together an import-export business in clothing, but has too small a

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

GONZALEZ Gonzalez, Reinol

Page 15

capital base. Currently, he is working out of his car selling clothing, particularly to visiting foreigners such as Venezuelans. Subject is negotiating to rent for \$200 a month for 5 years a hi-fi store between 5th and 6th Avenues on S.W. 8th Street in Miami. He would change it into a clothing store, so his wife could work with him and try to build up their clientele of wealthy Venezuelan and other visitors.

The twins are completing high school. Both kids have behaved well, worked hard, and made outstanding grades. The boy has been accepted at Tulane University to study dentistry and has received a financial grant in aid. The girl is accepted at the International Fine Arts College in Miami to study interior decorating and is applying for a grant in aid - not yet received. Subject's family has been receiving \$350 per month as dependency payments. Subject says there are no major family problems.

Comments from Rafael Quintero and Javier Souto:

Subject was friendly with Andres Cao and Santiago Echerendia in prison. They say he agreed to the TV interview in 1961 in return for an agreement not to kill any people in his group. Subject negotiated on prisoner release with Fidel Castro, and is now a member of the Committee of 75 (prisoner release group.) Subject has gone back to Cuba to pick up returning prisoners, and was with the first group in Oct 73.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

201-215949  
490727-3713